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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-16 Cancelled.

17. (presently amended) A hammer for ~~releasably~~ releasably retaining nails of varying sizes, said hammer comprising:

a handle;

a stationary hammerhead, affixed to said handle, with a striking face and a

flat side portion, said hammerhead defining:

multiple, partially conical peripheral nail-retention grooves having a  
rounded interior and dimensioned within said side portion to orient the  
nails toward said face, wherein each of said grooves is dimensioned to  
~~releasably~~ releasably accept both a shaft of a nail and a head of a nail;  
and

a pair of ~~transversely apically rounded~~, flared claws with a peripherally-  
rounded apex, said claws distally situated from said face, wherein each  
of said claws terminates in a nail removal void that differs in size one  
from the other;

and

a magnetic core, disposed within said hammerhead, in magnetic communication  
with each of said nail-retention grooves.

18. (previously presented) The hammer of claim 17 wherein said magnetic core comprises multiple magnets, wherein each groove contains at least one magnet embedded therein.

19. (cancelled).

20. (amended) A hammer for ~~releasably~~ releasably retaining nails of varying sizes, said hammer comprising:

a handle;

a stationary hammerhead, affixed to said handle, with a striking face and a flat side surface defining multiple, varying-sized nail-retention grooves having a rounded interior portion and a partially frustoconical interior portion, said grooves dimensioned to orient the nails toward said striking face; wherein each of said nail-retention grooves is dimensioned to ~~releasably~~ releasably accept both a shaft of a nail and a head of a nail; and

a magnetic core, disposed within said hammerhead, in magnetic communication with each of said nail-retention grooves.

21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented) The hammer of claim 21 wherein said magnetic core comprises a multiple magnets, wherein each of said nail-retention grooves includes at least one magnet embedded therein.

23. (amended) A hammer for removing nails from confined spaces, said hammer comprising:

a handle; and

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a stationary hammerhead, affixed to said handle, with a striking face and a pair of transversely apically rounded, flared claws with a peripherally-rounded apex, said claws distally situated from said face, wherein each of said claws terminates in a nail removal void that differs in size one from the other.